狼と香辛料 IV

作画■小梅けいと
原作■支倉凍砂
キャラクターデザイン■文倉十

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C126-5
電撃コミックス

9784048685160
1929979005702

ISBN978-4-04-868516-0
C9979 ¥570E

ASCII MEDIA WORKS
発行●アスキー・メディアワークス
定価：本体570円 ※消費税が別に加算されます
雑誌 49062-06

▶DENGEKI COMICS

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TVアニメ 戦国BASARA❶ 佐々倉コウ／株式会社カプコン

電撃魔王
DENGEKI-MAOH
http://maoh.dengeki.com/
毎月27日発売

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電撃マ王 5月号
DENGEKI-MAOH
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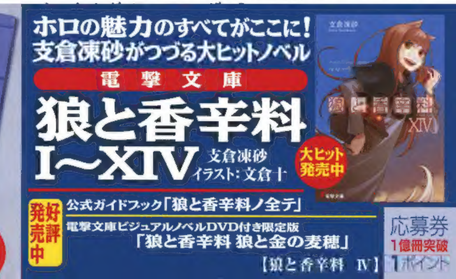

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毎月27日発売

電撃マ王5月号

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狼と香辛料!

狼と香辛料

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outline

旅の行商人ロレンスと豊穣を司る狼の化身・ホロの二人は、教会都市リュビンハイゲンに行く途中ポロソンの町で胡椒を換金した。老獪な商会の主が仕掛けた細工をホロは見抜き……。

ノーラ
リュビンハイゲンの教会に雇われて働く優秀な羊飼いの少女。

ロレンス
旅の行商人。北の故郷ヨイツに帰るホロと旅を共にしている。

ホロ
狼の耳と尻尾を持つ老獪な少女。正体は豊穣を司る狼の化身。

カバー・本文デザイン■雷門風太in竹工房　編集■荻野謙太郎
編集補助■加藤裕介　制作進行■岡本 術

狼と香辛料
WHAT I DRANK WAS GRAPE WINE...
drip
RIGHT?
drip
drip
grab

EITHER WAY, HE WAS CLEARLY PLANNING SOMETHING WITH THE SLANTED TABLE.

THE LENGTHS OF THE ARMS? A DIFFERENCE IN FRICTIONAL RESISTANCE?

NORMALLY, EVEN IF A BALANCE IS PLACED ON AN INCLINE, AS LONG AS THE SCALE IS PROPERLY CALIBRATED, IT IS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A CORRECT MEASUREMENT.
clunk
BUT THIS BALANCE APPEARED TO BE PROPERLY CALIBRATED ON AN INCLINED TABLE WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT.

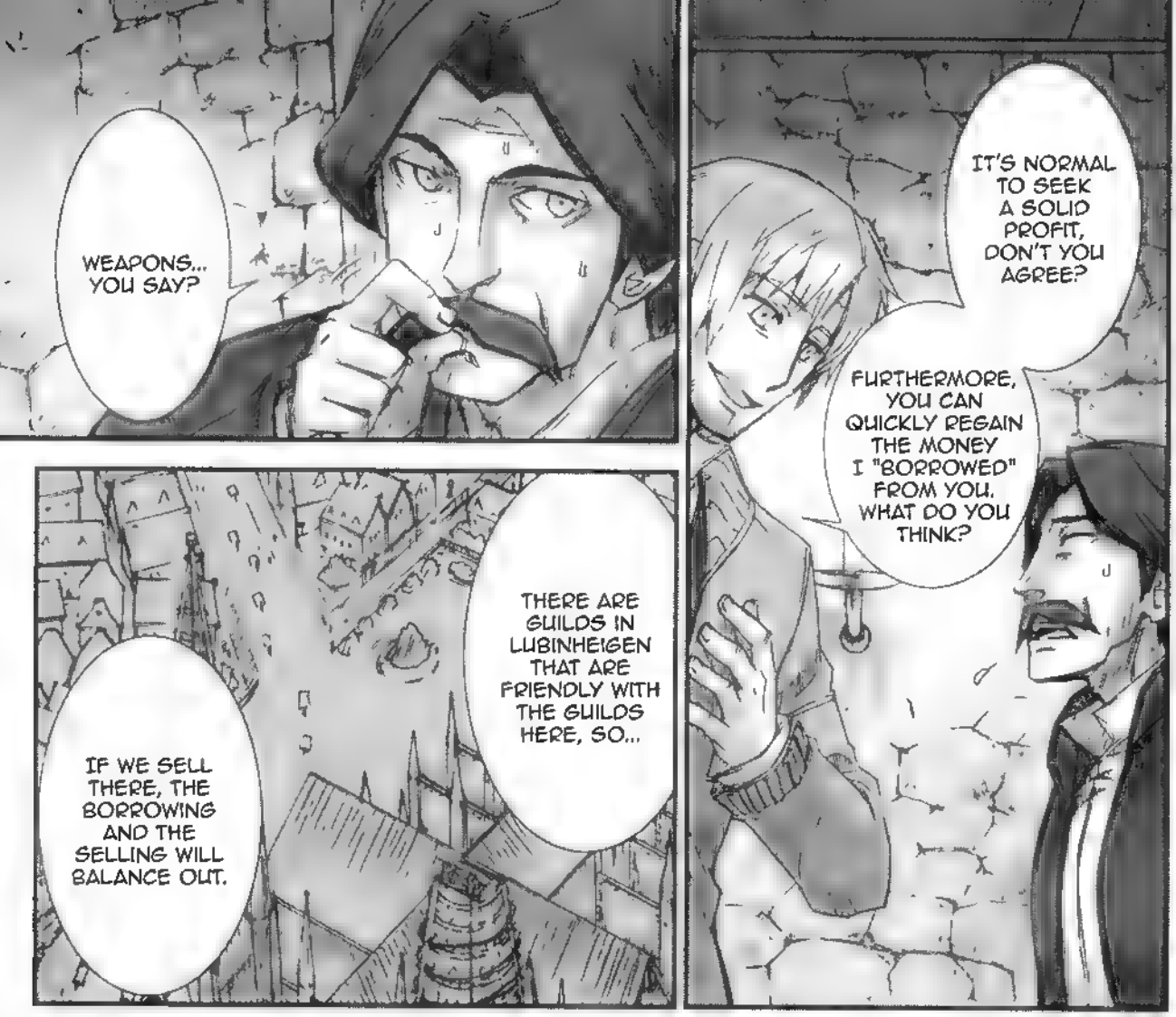
I SEE.
clack
I KNEW YOU HAD SOME SORT OF TRICK, SINCE YOU RUN SUCH A SUCCESSFUL BAR WITHOUT DRINKING NEARLY AS MUCH AS THE OTHER BARKEEPERS. I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS, THOUGH.
IS THIS YOUR SECRET TO SUCCESS, AS THE ONLY SOBER ONE HERE?
stomp

snicker
SO I MIGHT FORGET A FEW THINGS I SAW OR HEARD HERE.
aaah
LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST AS DRUNK AS MY COMPANION.
grin
WHA... WHAT ARE...
BUT I MIGHT ALSO BLURT OUT SOME OUTRAGEOUS THINGS.

LET'S SEE... I'LL TAKE THIS MONEY
THE PORTION THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAVE,
AND IN ADDITION... LET'S SEE... TO BUY MY TRUST, HOW ABOUT SPONSORING MY SHOPPING FOR DOUBLE THIS AMOUNT.
OH G-R-R-D-NESS
EVEN IF YOU ASK... I DON'T HAVE THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES...

Author's note: Lawrence is attempting to obtain an IOU or credit to allow him to finance purchases greater than the cash he has on hand. This will allow him to obtain a greater profit than through an ordinary transaction

groan
.....
fainting
THAT'S TOO BAD... LOOKS LIKE I JUST SOBERED UP.
SO THIS IS NOT WITHIN YOUR MEANS?
That's because that's going to be the equivalent of 100 Lubinheigen coins.
THERE ARE TONS OF GOODS HEADING TO LUBINHEIGEN, RIGHT?
HMM... WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SOME HIGH-GRADE WEAPONS?
WEAPONS... YOU SAY?


WEAPONS... YOU SAY?
IT'S NORMAL TO SEEK A SOLID PROFIT, DON'T YOU AGREE?
FURTHERMORE, YOU CAN QUICKLY REGAIN THE MONEY I "BORROWED" FROM YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THERE ARE GUILDS IN LUBINHEIGEN THAT ARE FRIENDLY WITH THE GUILDS HERE, SO...
IF WE SELL THERE, THE BORROWING AND THE SELLING WILL BALANCE OUT.

Grin
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
nod
nod

I WANT TO HEAD TO LUBINHEIGEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
MAY I ASK YOU TO PREPARE THE GOODS AS FAST AS YOU CAN?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

sit
clatter
...WHAT ABOUT THE WEIGHING...?
I... I UNDER-STAND.

SINCE... I BELIEVE IN GOD.
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

IT SEEMS THAT I'M ABOUT TO SOBER UP AS WELL.
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE ENDED THIS CONVER-SATION.
AH...
I'LL HAVE A VEAL FLANK.
yes
IT WOULD BE FANTASTIC IIF WE COULD HAVE SOME GRAPE WINE AND SOME VEAL JERKY.

clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
I'm so full.
AHHHH...
THAT WAS SO GOOD.
huff
That sure looked tasty.
IT'S NOT EVEN DUSK YET, BUT MY PORTION IS ALREADY GONE.
clack
clack

clack
clack
clack
clack
ALRIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HEAD TO BED.
puff
hahaha
yawn
BUT BEFORE THAT, I SHOULD GROOM MY TAIL...
UH...
clack
clack
shuffle
squeeze
How handy...
clack
clack
flick

shuffle
groom
groom
!
click
clack
...OIL?
AH, RIGHT...
yawn
?
I'VE HEARD THERE ARE SOME TYPES THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR GROOMING MY TAIL.
swish
swish

WILL YOU BUY SOME FOR ME?
click
clack
clack
clack
clack
grab
ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S THE HEAD TAX WHEN WE ENTER A TOWN.
AND THE FOOD EXPENSES ACTUALLY AMOUNT TO?
HAVE YOU TRIED WORKING OUT HOW MUCH THE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING, THE SPARE CLOTHES, THE COMB, THE TRAVEL EXPENSES, THE WINE EXPENSES...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN'T DO SIMPLE ADDITION.
grin
grin

snicker
.....
Because you're actually subtracting from my wallet!
I'M GOOD AT SUBTRACTION TOO!
OF COURSE I CAN ADD.
clack
clack
FIGURING OUT MY ANSWER FROM THOSE NUMBERS SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR A WISE WOLF LIKE YOU, RIGHT?
WELL THEN, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TRIED ADDING UP ALL THOSE EXPENSES?
Are both of those canteens empty...?
OH, IS SHE JUST DRUNK?
collapse
sigh
IF ONLY SHE WERE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME...
jump
OK, I UNDERSTAND.
clack
clack

hug
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BUY SOME FOR ME.
thump
grin
snicker
grin
Don't fall off now!
catch
HEY!
waver
clack
SHE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE A "WISE WOLF" WHEN DRUNK
clack

twitch
IT'S THANKS TO ME THAT WE WERE ABLE TO STOCK UP THE WAGON SO CHEAPLY.
SURELY WE'LL MAKE A PROFIT FROM THIS.
HOW... HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT?
clack
clack
MY BEAUTY, MY WISDOM AND MY EYES ARE FANTASTIC, BUT MY EARS ARE UNMATCHED.
OF COURSE, I HEARD YOUR FIRM REFUSAL.
grab
I CAN'T HAVE YOU LOOKING DOWN ON ME.
twitch
Ah
BUT YOUR CHUCKLING FACE MADE YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
Did I say too much...?
WILL YOU BUY ME SOME OIL?

Hmm?
OH, WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO RETURN THAT MONEY?
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU WANT TO BUY THESE FRIVOLOUS ITEMS...
clack
YOU OWE ME 140 SILVER COINS, DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW LARGE OF A SUM THAT IS?
clack
YOU SAY IT LIGHTLY, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH YOU OWE ME?
OF COURSE!
STOP MAKING THAT SURPRISED FACE.
stretch
I GUESS THAT IS TO BE EXPECT-ED.
OH, SO YOU THINK THAT WAY.
clack
clack

IF I RETURNED ALL YOUR MONEY, I'D BE FREE AGAIN.
I WILL CHASE YOU!
ALL THE WAY TO THE NORTHERN FORESTS
SHOULD I HURRY AND RETURN ALL THE MONEY?
URGh

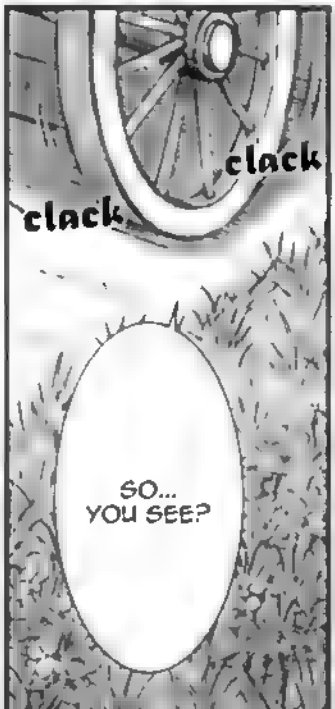
I wonder if Paro and Muuri are doing well~
THAT'S CHEATING.

clack
sigh
clack

...I DIDN'T DECIDE ON A FIXED RETURN DATE.
AS LONG AS YOU REPAY ME BY THE TIME WE REACH THE NORTHERN FORESTS...
IS THAT ALRIGHT?

I PROMISE TO RETURN ALL OF YOUR MONEY WHEN WE REACH THE NORTHERN FORESTS.

grin
OK!


clack
clack
SO... YOU SEE?

SO THE MORE YOU LEND TO ME, THE MORE YOU EARN.
I'M ALSO PLANNING TO RETURN THE MONEY PLUS INTEREST.

rustle
YUP.
STOP WORRYING ABOUT MY DEBT. WILL YOU BUY IT FOR ME?
...THE OIL... RIGHT?
neighing
Alright... Fine.

I WOULDN'T CALL IT BARGAINING, BUT IF WE DISPLAY THIS MANY GOODS OPENLY, THE PRICES WILL BE DRIVEN DOWN.
clang
clang
clang
THERE WILL BE A GOOD AMOUNT OF BARGAINING ONCE WE GET THERE, RIGHT?
grin
clack
clack

WELL, I'M SURE WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR YOUR OIL.
One way or another, it seems like she's at least a little concerned.
clack
clack
clack

flick
OF COURSE. IT WOULD BE WRONG NOT TO TRY AND EXTORT SOME MONEY FROM POWERFUL AND DIRTY MERCHANTS.
smile
lick
lick
STILL, THE SPICES WERE DEFINITELY GREAT...
click clack
click clack
twitch
DON'T LIKEN ME TO YOU! I'M TALKING ABOUT PROFIT!
YOU ATE SOME?

JEWELS OR GOLD ARE USUALLY THE NORM.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING, FOR EXAMPLE...

HMM... THEN WHY DON'T WE TRY AND PURCHASE SOME SPICES AGAIN?
THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LUBINHEIGEN AND POROSON. THE TARIFF ALONE WOULD PUT US IN THE RED.

WE WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH OF A PROFIT IF WE WERE LIMITED TO ONLY THOSE ITEMS IN LUBINHEIGEN.
lick
lick

THE TARIFF IS SIMPLY TOO HIGH.

aaachooo
sniff
sniff

UGH...
WHY?

IF A MERCHANT TRIES TO BYPASS THE POLICY AND IMPORT SOME GOODS, THEY WILL BE SUBJECTED TO STAGGERING TARIFFS.
IT'S ALL PART OF THEIR PROTECTION-IST POLICY.
REALLY?
clack
clack
SO WE WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO PROFIT AT A VERY MODEST RATE.
OF COURSE, WE'D PROBABLY ENCOUNTER THE EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF DANGER.
WE COULD MARK UP THE PRICES BY ABOUT TEN TIMES.
BUT IF WE COULD SMUGGLE THE GOODS IN, LET'S SEE...
HMMM.

?
DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF IDEA?
whiff
IF THERE WERE A WAY TO CARRY IN A HUGE AMOUNT, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY... BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
swish
swish
YOU KNOW, IF YOU WERE CAUGHT, YOU WOULD AT LEAST HAVE YOUR DOMINANT HAND SEVERED...
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS HIDE THEM WHEN CARRYING THEM IN, RIGHT?
spit.

clack
clack
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE WHO KEEPS USING UP ALL MY HARD- AND HONESTLY-EARNED GAINS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
WELL, YOUR BUSINESS IS GOING SMOOTHLY. YOU'LL BE FINE WORKING YOUR WAY UP STEADILY AND HONESTLY.
CER-TAINLY.
clack
clack
pat
pat
pat
yawn
AHHHH
clack
clack
Goodness...

clack
WHEN NIGHT FALLS, LET'S EAT AND DRINK TOGETHER.
clack
DRINKING ALL THE WINE WE TOOK FROM THAT TRADING GUILD.
I FORGOT TO SAY THIS, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF...
clack
clack
heavy breathing

狼と香辛料

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狼與辛香料

Spice and Wolf 10

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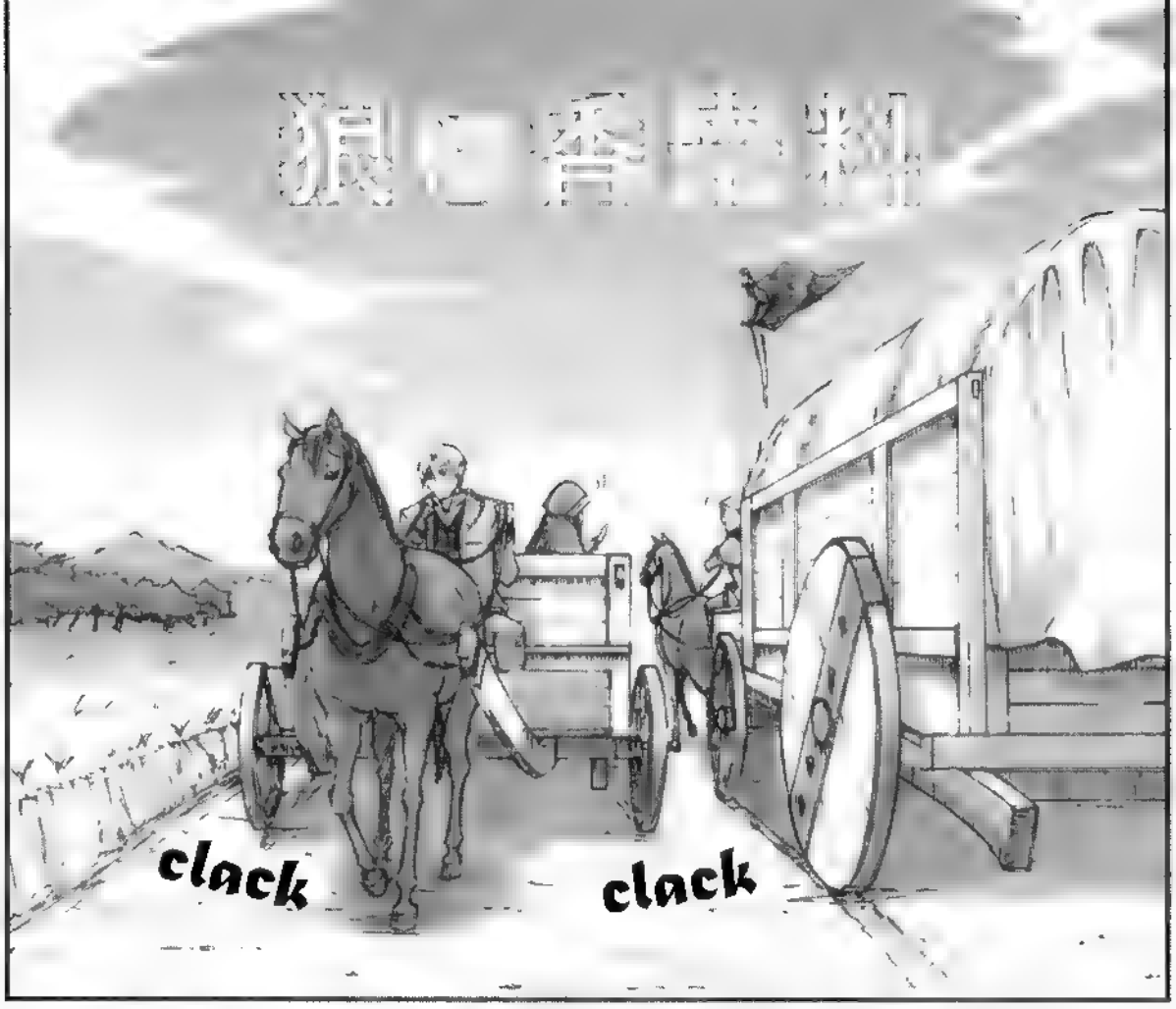
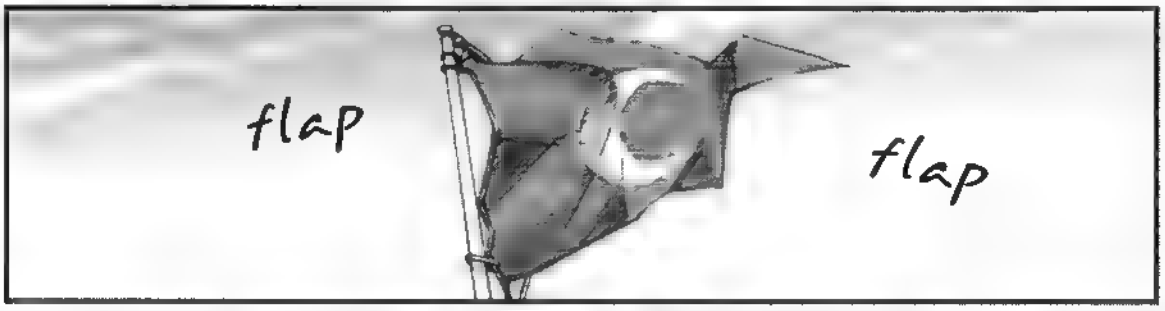
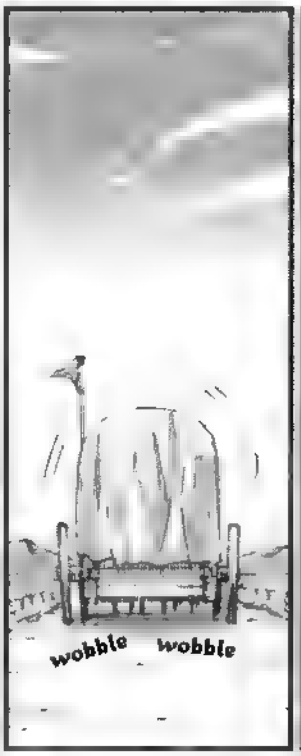

clack
clack


flap
flap

clack
clack
THE WAGON WE JUST PASSED IS FLYING A FLAG TOO.
Maybe they're appointed merchants from some country?

MERCHANTS FROM FAR AWAY PUT UP THE FLAGS SO THAT PEOPLE FROM THE SAME REGION WHO ARE MEETING THEM CAN TELL AT A GLANCE.
THAT FLAG INDICATES WHAT AREA THEY ARE ORIGINALLY FROM.

I SEE, SO IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE RETURNING FROM A NOT-TOO-FAR-AWAY PLACE...
that we don't need a flag.


wobble wobble

thump

clack
clack
.....

yawn
HEY.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE AHEAD OF US.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
tug
neighing

step
I THINK SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED.
ARE THEY CARRYING WEAPONS?
grin
THEY ARE CARRYING LONG SPEARS, SO THEY COULD BE PRETTY TROUBLESOME. EVEN SO, THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR MY QUICK WITS!
HAVE YOU EVEN MET A MERCENARY BEFORE?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT. AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE A GANG OF RESTLESS MERCENARIES.

THERE'S... NO ONE AROUND, RIGHT?
ruffle
I SHOULD PROBABLY AVOID ASKING ABOUT THE DETAILS
?
UGH
IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE JUST GOSSIPING.
twitch
twitch
EH?
IS IT SOME SORT OF SPONTANEOUS MARKET?
I'M SURE OF AT LEAST THAT MUCH.
IT DOESN'T SMELL OF FIGHTING.
I WONDER

chatter

IS THERE ANYONE HERE THAT UNDERSTANDS PARISIAN? THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN TROUBLE.

chatter

chatter

SO THE DETOUR FROM HERE IS RAIN'S SAINT ROAD?

chatter

MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS THAT STORY ABOUT THE MERCENARIES TRUE?

IF YOU CONTINUED PAST MITSUHEIM AND USED THE PRAIRIE ROAD, IT WOULD BE CLOSER.

Sorry, we just got here ourselves.

ANYWAY, LET'S ASK AROUND TO SEE WHAT THE ISSUE IS.

EVERYONE HERE IS EITHER A MERCHANT OR A PILGRIM.

clack

clack

hammer

hammer

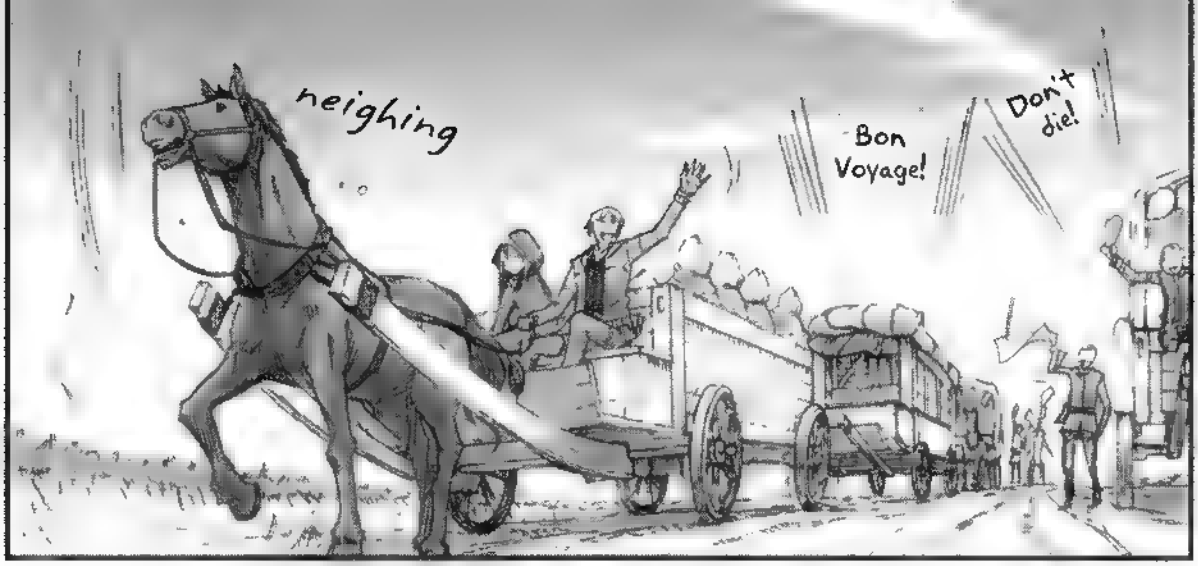
COULD I INTEREST YOU IN SOME FABRIC? I'M OPEN TO BARTERING WITH SALT TOO.

EXCUSE ME.
HMM?
OH, A FELLOW MERCHANT! DID YOU JUST ARRIVE?
YES, FROM POROSON.
I'M KIDDING. THE TRUTH IS, ON THE ROAD TO RUBINHAIGEN, THERE IS TALK OF A MERCENARY BAND SETTING UP A BLOCKADE.
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE HAS STOPPED HERE.
IN THAT CASE, WE SHOULD ALL SPREAD OUT AND IMPOSE OURSELVES AS BIG MERCHANTS!
ha ha ha
BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
ISN'T IT BECAUSE THE COUNT JUST DECIDED THAT HE IS GOING TO OPEN A MARKET HERE?

A MERCENARY BAND?
IF THEY'RE FROM THIS REGION, IT'S PROBABLY THE GROUP LED BY GENERAL LASTOYU, RIGHT?
NO.
IT'S SAID THAT THEY CARRY A DARK RED FLAG WITH AN EMBLEM OF AN EAGLE.
THE HEINSBERG MERCENARY BAND...
OH WOW, YOU'RE A MERCHANT WHO FREQUENTS THE NORTH?
YES. THEY'RE OFTEN KNOWN AS THE HEINSBERG VULTURES.
IF YOU'RE LOADED WITH CARGO, YOU'D RATHER MEET BANDITS THAN THEM.

shake shake
WHEN LARGE MERCENARY BANDS MAKE MOVEMENTS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, THE MARKETS WILL PANIC.
SO WE HAVE A BAND OF EASILY-DISTURBED BIRDS OF PREY THAT ARE EVEN WORSE THAN EAGLES...
THIS IS JUST HEARSAY, BUT IF YOU TAKE THE ROAD TOWARDS KASRATA, THERE IS A NEW ROAD THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED WHICH LEADS TO RUBINHAIGEN.
BUT I'VE ALSO HEARD A LOT OF NASTY NEWS ABOUT THAT AREA.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE WON'T MAKE IT WITHOUT TAKING A LONG DETOUR.
IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
THOSE LANDS WERE ORIGINALLY GRASSLANDS THAT WOLVES ROAMED.
IT SEEMS THAT IT HAS GOTTEN WORSE RECENTLY.

glance
RUMOR HAS IT THAT MAGICIANS FROM A CULT ARE SUMMONING THE WOLVES.
TWO WEEKS AGO, AN ENTIRE CARAVAN WAS ANNIHILATED.
gulp
WELL, IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST SIT TIGHT FOR A FEW DAYS AND WASTE SOME TIME.
WHERE DOES...
THAT NEW ROAD START?
chatter
chatter
Wow, someone is departing!
Good luck!

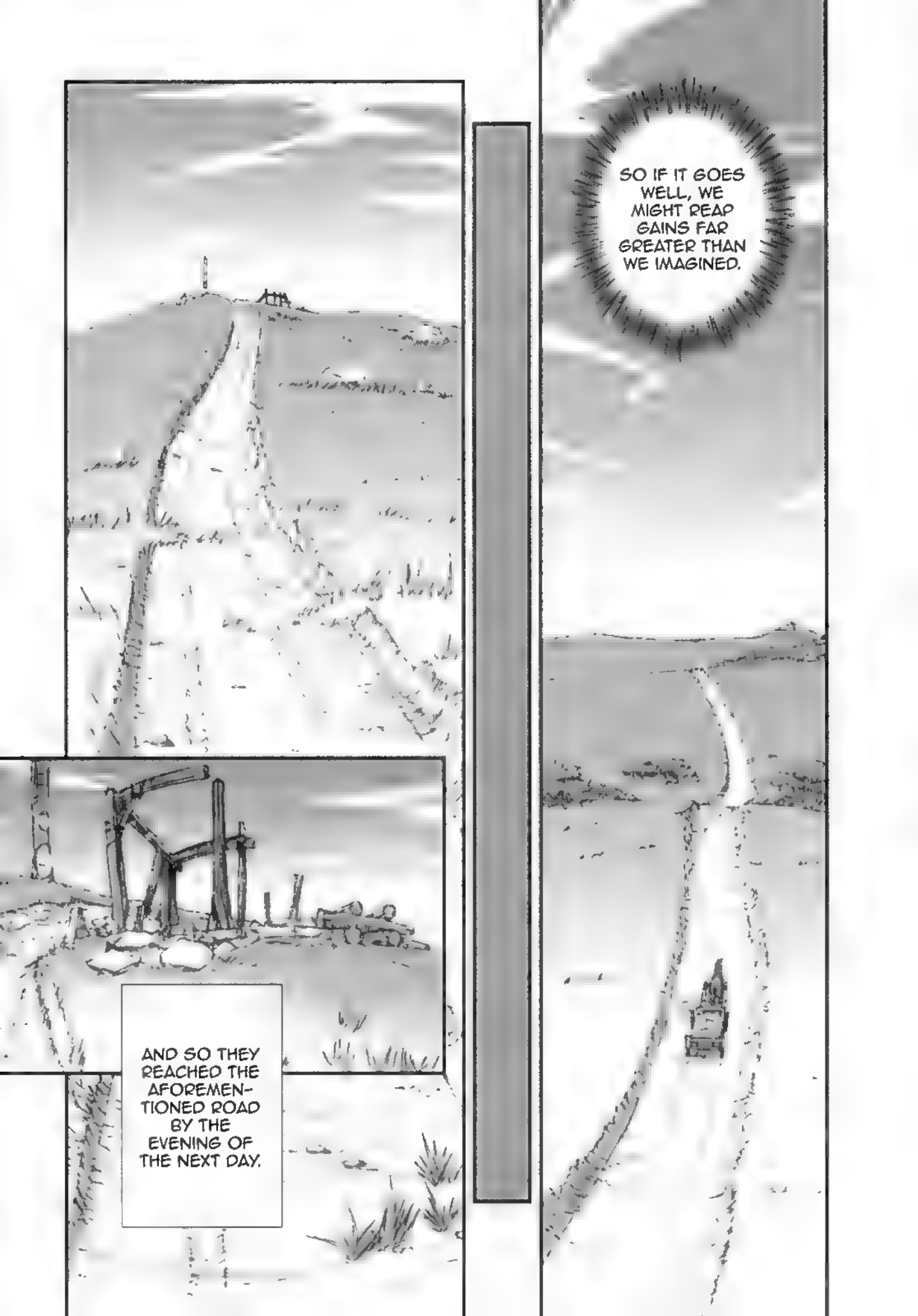

neighing
Bon Voyage!
Don't die!

WELL, YOU SEE...
I see.
THERE'S AN ADAGE AMONG MERCHANTS THAT SAYS,
"AT THE END OF THE ROAD IS PROFIT."

HMM?
grin
YOU'RE MORE INTERESTING THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN. AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING.

SUMMONING, HUH?
giggling
WOLVES ON A GRASSLAND?

clack
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
clack
Nice of you to say that.
ha!ha ha


SO IF IT GOES WELL, WE MIGHT REAP GAINS FAR GREATER THAN WE IMAGINED.
AND SO THEY REACHED THE AFOREMEN-TIONED ROAD BY THE EVENING OF THE NEXT DAY.

HOW DOES IT LOOK? DO YOU THINK WOLVES ARE AROUND?
clack
clack
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LOOK AT THIS.
A FARAM COIN?
chew
MY KIND AREN'T SO DUMB AS TO BE FOUND IN SUCH AN EXPOSED AREA.
clack
clack
NOPE, THAT'S THE REVISED RADEON BISHOP COIN.
ISN'T THIS ONE THE FAKE MARINU COIN?
NOPE, TOO BAD. IT'S A FAKE MARINU COIN.
.....
swish

hehe
shuffle
ONE MORE TIME!
NEVER!
shake
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU TRY MEMORIZING THEM NATURALLY WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE TO USE THEM?

RYULITE COIN.
FILING COIN.
FARAM COIN.
FAKE MARINU COIN.
RANDBART BALD KING COIN.
TORENI COIN.
ALRIGHT, FROM THE TOP THEN.
OK.

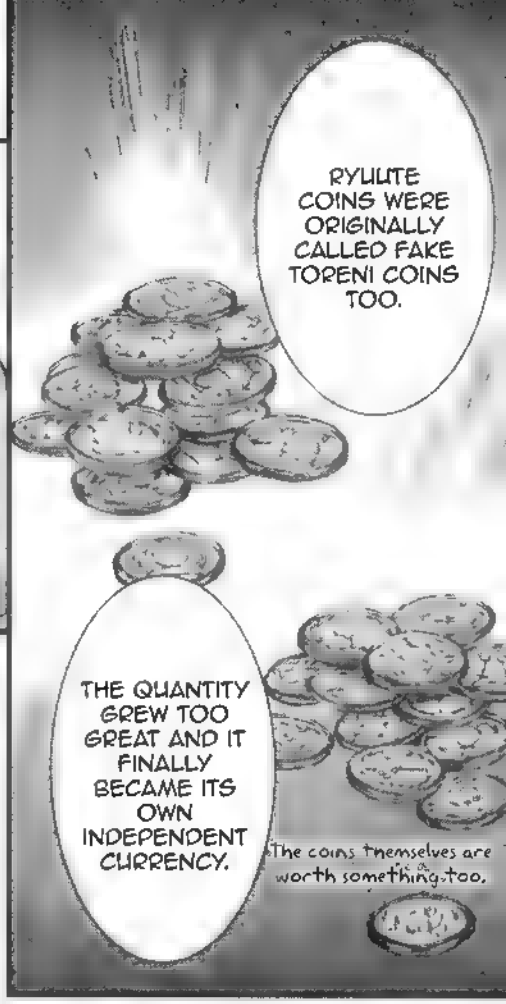
despair
MITSUFING CATHEDRAL COIN.
HOLY MITSUFING COIN.
FAKE MITSUFING CATHEDRAL COIN.
MITSUFING CHRISTMAS COIN.
AND... THIS ONE IS...
Y... YOU.
.....
YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?
Master! You're just teasing me!

haaa
glare
NO, NO...
PFF
haha hahaha

THEN STOP LAUGHING.
shake
wobble wobble
THE MITSUFING PONTIFICATE SIMPLY ISSUES MORE COINS THAN ANYONE ELSE.
clack clack
I'M NOT TEASING YOU OR ANYTHING.

THEN ADD THOSE WHO HOLD REGIONAL POWER AND THOSE WHO HOLD POWER IN THE CHURCH...
AND FINALLY, ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT, PEOPLE WILL NEVER STOP MAKING COUNTERFEITS.
NEW COUNTRIES MAKE NEW COINS WHEN THEY ARE FOUNDED AND NEW COINS ARE MADE WHEN THEY FALL AND ARE REPLACED...
clack
clack
EVEN SO, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CURRENCIES?
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW ANNOYING ONE CAN BE.

IF THEY WERE THE FOOTPRINTS OF ANIMALS, I COULD EASILY REMEMBER EVERY ONE OF THEM.
blow blow


RYUUTE COINS WERE ORIGINALLY CALLED FAKE TORENI COINS TOO.
THE QUANTITY GREW TOO GREAT AND IT FINALLY BECAME ITS OWN INDEPENDENT CURRENCY.
The coins themselves are worth something too.

Hahahaha
WELL, IT MAKES FOR A GOOD TIME-WASTER, DOESN'T IT?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
surprise
crash

Pout
.....

clack
clack
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYONE ON THIS ROAD AT ALL.
lick
lick
IT'S BECAUSE THE POWER OF RUMORS IS EXCEEDINGLY STRONG.
clang
clang
LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE WRONG ABOUT THERE BEING NO ONE AROUND.
THE KIND OF PERSON THAT I HATE IS UP AHEAD.
clenched teeth
I SMELL SHEEP.

ahahaha
THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE RUNNING. WE HAVE NO NEED TO AVOID THEM.
thump
step
A SHEPHERD... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? SHALL WE TAKE A DETOUR?
glare
IT'S EASY FOR THE WAGON WHEELS TO GET STUCK ON A GRASSLAND ANYWAY
IF YOU SAY SO, THEN LET'S KEEP GOING.

ring
ring
SUCH DELICIOUS "FOOD" IS WALKING AROUND IN FRONT OF YOU, AND YET...
INSTEAD OF EATING THEM, YOU'RE TOLD YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THEM.
YOU'D HATE IT TOO, RIGHT?

thonk

glance

I'VE HATED SHEPHERDS FOR LONGER THAN YOU HAVE LIVED.
TO ASK ME TO GET ALONG WITH THEM NOW IS IMPOSSIBLE.
clack
clack

stretch

AT THE VERY LEAST, SHE'S NOT A DEPARTED SPIRIT.
wave
wave
ring ring
clack
clack

stop

MY NAME IS LAWRENCE, AND I'M A TRAVELLING MERCHANT.
AND THIS IS MY COMPANION, HORO.
WOW, SHE'S PRETTY TINY...
pant
pant
dash
dash

smile
.....
BEING ABLE TO MEET YOU ON THIS ROAD MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF GOD'S GUIDANCE.
IF YOU ARE A KIND SHEPHERD,
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM A GREETING.

SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERFORM THE SONG AND DANCE TO PROVE IT.
nod
IF SHE IS NOT A DEMON, AND REALLY A SHEPHERD,
FROM THE BLESSINGS OF GOD...
thud
wave
scratch
scratch
THIS VOICE...
deep breath

ring

AND I FOLLOW THE RIGHT PATH THROUGH HIS GUIDANCE...

jab

scratch

I AM GUIDED BY GOD AS A SHEPHERD GUIDES HIS SHEEP...

I HEAR THE WHISPERS OF THE GOSPEL IN THE WIND AND AM BLESSED WITH SPIRITUAL AFFECTION AS SHEEP ARE BLESSED WITH THE GRASS OF THE EARTH...

scratch

A YOUNG GIRL...!?

FROM THE PROTECTION OF THE SPIRITS OF THE LAND...

creaking
FORGIVE ME FOR MY RUDENESS YOU ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT A KIND SHEPHERD.
GLADLY!
FOR BLESSINGS FOR A SAFE JOURNEY
COULD I ASK YOU, WHO ARE GUIDED BY GOD...

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Spice and Wolf 20

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BARTI...
MIS...
RUSPINZIO!
TOERO...
MORO
DIRATTO...
CURU...

狼と香辛料

exhale
drink
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

.....
clang
clang
nod
nod
I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU, AS I HAVEN'T PASSED BY ANY OTHER TRAVELERS TODAY.
WELL THEN...
YES. THE SAINT METROGIUS PILGRIMAGE ROAD IS CURRENTLY UNUSABLE, SO WE'RE TRAVELING THERE ALONG THIS PATH.
?
EXCUSE ME.
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE HEADING TO RUBINHAIGEN?

I HAVE.
BUT URGENT BUSINESS HAS FORCED ME TO CHOOSE THIS ROAD.
...HAVE YOU NOT HEARD ABOUT THE WOLVES?
I SEE...
.....?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED FROM ME?
fidget
AH...
fidget
NO... IT'S JUST...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
AS A MERCHANT... MORE IMPORTANTLY, AS A MAN, I HAVE TO ASK THIS MUCH.

UM...
WOULD YOU... LIKE TO HIRE ME...?
UM, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M JUST A TRAVELING MERCHANT. I DON'T SELL SHEEP.
N-NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...

.....
I DON'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...
ENEKK.
stand up
I AM A SHEPHERD.
UM, BESIDES TENDING TO THE SHEEP, I CAN ALSO REPEL WOLVES.
ring

I COULD PROTECT YOU FROM WOLVES FOR THE REST OF YOUR JOURNEY.
IF YOU HIRE ME...
YOU COULD ...
WOOF
dash
ring ring
Hmm...
IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO HIRE A SHEPHERD TO HELP AVOID WOLVES.
Ponder
WHEN WE TRAVEL THROUGH AREAS WITH POOR PUBLIC ORDER, WE DO HIRE MERCENARIES OR KNIGHTS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Smi...le...

PLEASE DO.
I WILL ASK MY COMPANION.
LET ME THINK FOR A MINUTE.
Hmm...
WHEN CONCERNING A SHEPHERD, IT WOULD BE BEST TO ASK THE AFOREMENTIONED WOLVES...

yawn
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT SHEPHERD?
HORO.
creak

HMM!
HMM?

neigh

I'M CUTER THAN HER.

ring
ring

glance
SKILLS?
I'M NOT ASKING YOU ABOUT THAT. I'M ASKING ABOUT HER SKILLS.
disappointment
CAN YOU TELL HOW GOOD OF A SHEPHERD SHE IS?
IF SHE LOOKS CAPABLE, I THINK IT MIGHT BE WORTH HIRING HER.
dash
YOU WERE LISTENING, WEREN'T YOU?

I'M HERE, AREN'T I?

THIS COULD BE A WHOLE NEW BUSINESS, YOU KNOW?

OF COURSE.
BUT I NEVER CONSIDERED EMPLOYING SHEPHERDS AS BODYGUARDS AGAINST WOLVES.

plonk
cough
IT'S NOT AS IF I'VE BEEN DISTRACTED BY HER CHARMS.
BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTER ANYWAY.

glance

SO, HOW ARE HER SKILLS?
WELL, I GUESS SHE GETS A PASSING GRADE.
sigh
WELL, I CAN'T REALLY SAY... SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S ACTUALLY DEALT WITH ANY WOLVES.
EVEN SO, I GUESS YOU COULD STILL SAY SHE'S ABOVE AVERAGE.
IF IT WERE ME, I'D BE ABLE TO HUNT ONE OF HER SHEEP.
BUT AS FOR NORMAL WOLVES, SHE'D BE ABLE TO HANDLE A GROUP OF THEM.
THAT'S PRETTY HIGH PRAISE COMING FROM YOU.
THEIR MAIN SELLING POINT REALLY IS THAT SHARP DOG OF HERS.
THAT DOG CAN SENSE ANYTHING THAT'S BREATHING IN THE VICINITY.
ring
IT'S THAT DOG THAT MAKES THE TWO OF THEM COMPLETE.
SO LONG AS SHE CAN DETECT THE WOLVES' GROWLING, SHE IS A FEARSOME SHEPHERD EVEN AT HER YOUNG AGE.

gesture

I GOT IT. THANKS.
creak
HEY...

HMM?
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY PLANNING TO HIRE HER?

WHY DON'T I TAKE THE CHANCE RIGHT NOW TO...
grin

IF YOU HIRE HER, IT MEANS SHE'LL BE TRAVELING WITH US, YOU KNOW?
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
THAT'S NOT IT.
AH...
DO YOU REALLY DISLIKE THE IDEA THAT MUCH?
.....
IS SHE TRYING TO SAY THAT SHE PREFERS TO TRAVEL AS JUST THE TWO OF US?

shake
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE IT.

glance
IT'S NOT TOO MUCH.

IT'S ONLY ABOUT TWO MORE DAYS UNTIL WE REACH RUBINHAIGEN.
IS THAT TOO MUCH?

SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT CAN YOU PUT UP WITH IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE?

WHAT DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH?

I'M REALLY ONLY HIRING HER TO SEE HOW USEFUL IT WOULD BE TO EMPLOY SHEPHERDS AS BODYGUARDS AGAINST WOLVES.
YOU CAN PUT UP WITH HER FOR JUST TWO DAYS, CAN'T YOU?

Hmm.
WELL, I THOUGHT ...

...IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T. THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

THAT'S...

I'M THINKING THAT IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL WHO WE TRAVEL WITH, THEY'LL FIND OUT ABOUT ME.
SNAP
?
AH...
I'M FINE WITH THAT, BUT YOU'D BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE. AM I RIGHT?

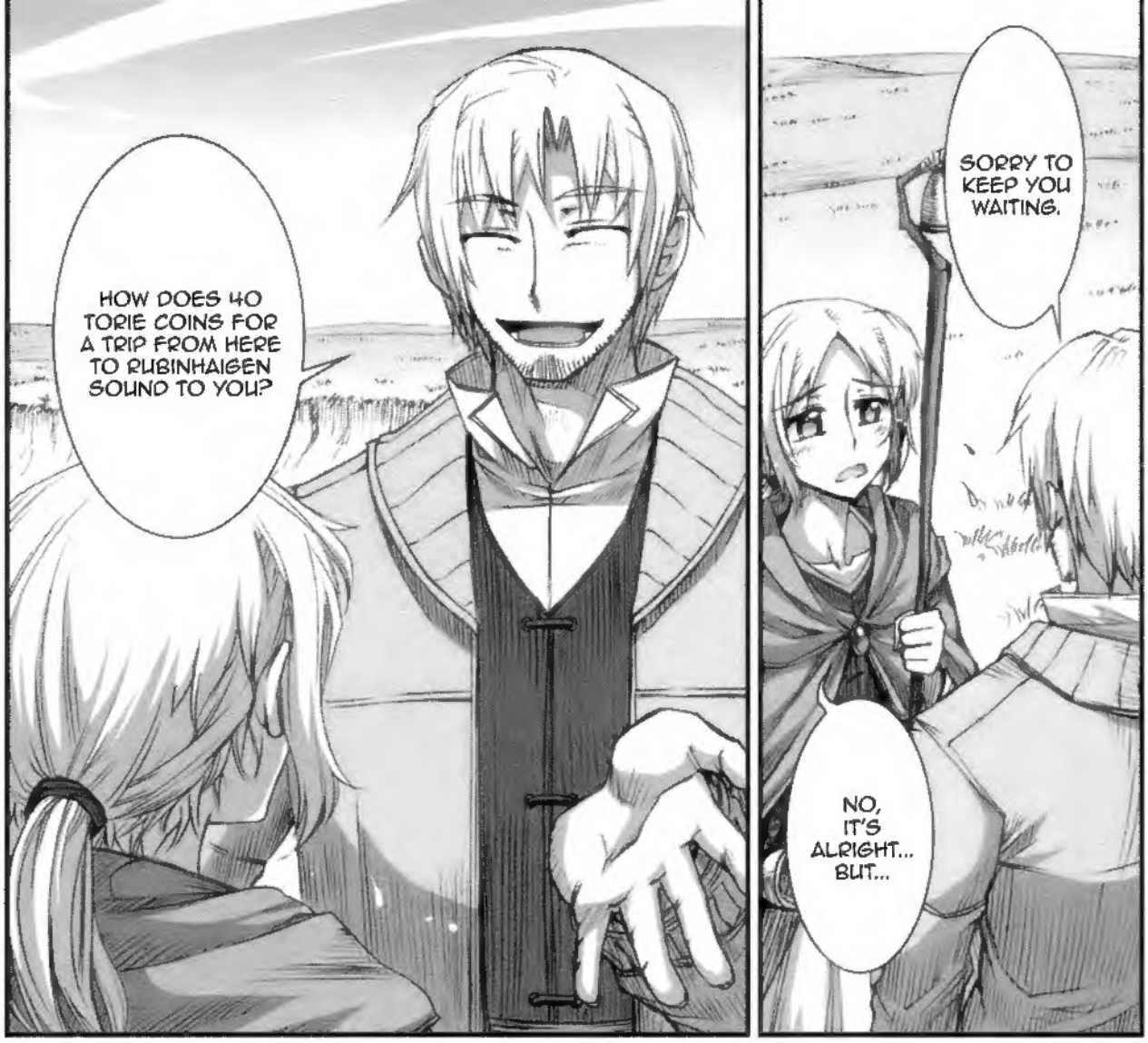
YOU...
WANTED ME TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
OH, I SEE HOW IT IS.

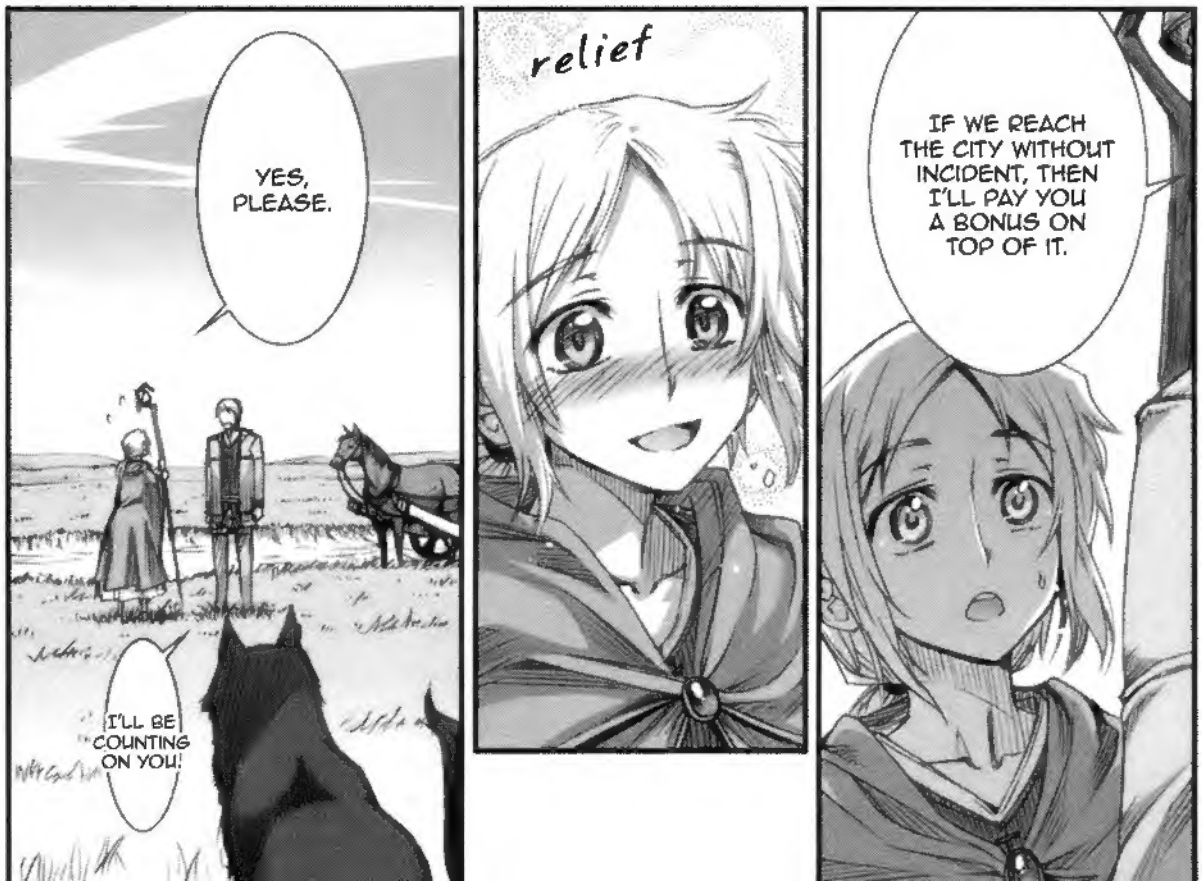
turn
I WANTED...
TO TRAVEL ALONE WITH ONLY YOU...
YOU FOOL!

YOU...
stop
moe shock

giggle
REALLY ARE SUCH...

JUST DO AS YOU SEE FIT.
WELL, IF IT'S JUST TWO DAYS, I THINK WE'LL BE ALRIGHT.


HOW DOES 40 TORIE COINS FOR A TRIP FROM HERE TO RUBINHAIGEN SOUND TO YOU?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT... BUT...


YES, PLEASE.
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU!
relief
IF WE REACH THE CITY WITHOUT INCIDENT, THEN I'LL PAY YOU A BONUS ON TOP OF IT.

COULD I ASK YOUR NAME?
OH, SORRY!
swipe swipe
N...
MY NAME IS NORA ALENT.
MY NAME IS CRAFT LAWRENCE.
I GO BY THE NAME LAWRENCE FOR BUSINESS.
grip

WELL THEN, I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU UNTIL RUBINHAIGEN.
LEAVE IT TO ME!

FoOlRulez presents Spice and Wolf 21

Translator: Necrophantasia
Editor: Entry-level
Proofreaders: Z-Virus, DKW, Toshi

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